

FIFTY-EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT

MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTEEN



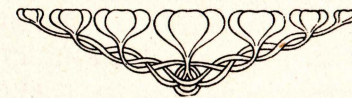
**Fifty-eighth Annual
Report**

of the

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

for the

Year Ending February 28, 1913



**SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
1913**

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Year ending February 28, 1913.

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG.....	President
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JOHN H. WOOD.....Secretary

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library.

F. B. GRAVES.....Librarian

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Library
and Chess Room
Mechanics' Institute Building
57 Post Street
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

The Mechanics'-Mercantile Library now contains over 45,000 volumes.

The Reading Room list of periodicals embraces the titles of over 500 newspapers, magazines, reviews and journals.

Members may withdraw two books at a time, and extra books on payment of 5 cents each.

Books (except new fiction) may be retained for two weeks and then renewed for two weeks longer.

New fiction may be kept one week and is not renewable.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee.....	\$ 1.00
Quarterly Dues (in advance)	1.50
Life Membership.....	50.00

Library open, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

Sundays and Holidays, 11 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Chess Room open daily 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 6, 1913.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:

This report marks the close of my thirteenth year as a member of your Board of Trustees and is the tenth year of my service as its President. During this time there are two years of which I desire to make particular mention. One is the year 1906, which was notable to the Institute for its adversity and the other is 1912, the year just closing, which is surely worth mentioning for its prosperity.

In 1906 the Institute had succeeded in getting its finances in such shape that our income exceeded our expenditures. The Folsom Street lot had been sold at a fair price, the Pavilion Block was earning a little more than its taxes and maintenance, our membership was increasing, the library had just been considerably enlarged by its consolidation with the Mercantile Library and preparations were being made for renewed activities and advance along the lines we had mapped out for the Institute, when the devastating fire of April 1906, wiped out all our buildings and books and put an end for the time to our plans and hopes. We were left with two good pieces of land and some money and a membership shrunken by about 1,500, but hopeful and confident, with sufficient faith in its Trustees to give them an opportunity to work out the problem before them. I think it is no idle boast to say that the problem has been worked out satisfactorily, as the Mechanics' Institute stands today with its Post Street building out of debt, \$329,659.40 invested in three hundred and eight one-thousand-dollar 5 per cent bonds of the City and County of San Francisco, a mortgage of \$12,500.00 on San Francisco real estate, \$39,005.56 in cash for proper endowment investments, and a further surplus of \$25,595.18, an increasing membership and a growing library.

This gratifying condition was brought about to a very great extent by the sale of the Pavilion block for \$700,000.00 to the City. We did not give up the block any too willingly as we had always hoped to hold it until such a time as we could secure one million dollars for it. But we could not stand in the way of the City's improvement, especially when

the authorities were disposed to deal fairly with us. I am sure that time will prove that the transaction was favorable to all concerned, rather an ideal condition. During the year just past we also sold the lot owned on San Bruno Avenue, for which we received \$9,000.00, a fair price. It is worthy of mention that no commissions of any kind were paid in either of these transactions.

As matters now stand, the Mechanics' Institute has a gross income of about \$75,000.00 a year, and the task before your Board of Trustees is to spend it wisely and well. For some time to come a large part of the income will have to be devoted to the purchase of books. Not only should the books of the day be secured, but it should be our aim to build up a valuable reference library as well as a library of the standard works of our literature. Some attention must be paid to the French and German books which have been sadly neglected owing to our lack of funds. It might be well to remind you that an increase in membership and in books carries with it, too, an increased cost of handling and additional library attendants. I cannot say too much for the loyalty of our employees, who devoted themselves to their work, without regarding extra hours, while the salaries we were able to pay were comparatively small. We are now able to remedy this and I am sure the members will feel the effects of our prosperity in the better service which will be given to them. Under our improved circumstances we were also able to offer a course of lectures by Professor H. Morse Stephens, without extra cost to the members. The attendance at these lectures has encouraged your Board of Trustees to provide an increase in the number of courses to be offered next fall and a committee is now at work planning further activities in that line. It has been suggested that the Mechanics' Institute might be able to secure the best men either in this country or foreigners visiting the United States for its lecture platform. We must establish the reputation of the Mechanics' Institute as the highest lecture center in this city, and the most celebrated men will be eager to lecture before us and the choice will rest with us. It is a pity that we have not a hall of our own, but this, too, may come in course of time. When this Post Street building was erected our finances did not permit us to think of it, nor was the size of the lot sufficient for the purpose. Although the building has only been occupied for three years the success which has attended the renting of the offices, as well as the increase in

our membership, has compelled us to increase the elevator service, and a considerable amount of money is being spent installing an additional elevator. This will enable us to run one elevator for the library exclusively. For all details concerning the finances of the Institute or the work of the library I beg to refer you to the reports of the Secretary and the Librarian, which are published annually.

This short sketch of the recent history of the Institute which I have given you would not be complete without some mention of the membership of your Board of Trustees. Mr. Robert W. Neal, who has been a member of the Board since 1897, retires this year, having declined a nomination, much to the regret of his colleagues. Without any arrangement or understanding the Board is continually undergoing changes, but fortunately the changes are so gradual that there is no rude break in its policy. Of the fourteen members who made up the Board during the year 1900, there are but two left to serve during the coming year, and these are hold-overs from the election of a year ago.

It might be well to draw your attention to the effects which the Exposition of 1915 may have upon the Institute. The chess and checker people are already preparing for some great world contests to be held under the auspices of the Mechanics' Institute and I have no doubt that our library and reference rooms will be of great value to the Exposition guests of San Francisco. Some arrangements will have to be made so that we, too, may be able to do our part as hosts to the world on that occasion. By that time our shelves will be overflowing and it would be strange indeed if the Mechanics' Institute were not able to supply the books demanded by savant and scientist as well as the literature which amuses and interests, and perhaps also rests the tired visitor at our great Exposition.

I have great faith in the future of the Mechanics' Institute. There is a demand for an institution like this in San Francisco as demonstrated by our increasing membership. I have always maintained, and stated time and again, that we are a part of the educational system of this City and State, and it is our duty to fill the particular place assigned to us by the course of events, to the best of our ability. There are many who look upon the Institute as their educator, after the days of school and college are over and the sterner duties of life are before them. There are many who look to the library with its store

of literature, to maintain an interest in the higher and nobler aims of life and turn to it for an occasional relief from the sordid struggle for existence. If the Institute does these things, then its existence and our endeavors in its behalf are not in vain.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the members of the Mechanics' Institute for the uniform courtesy and kindness shown to me while presiding at the meetings of the Institute. It has made my task easier that I have always been able to count upon the support of the members. In laying down the office of President I also wish to thank the Board of Trustees, to whose unselfish and untiring work the success of the business management of my long administration is certainly due, and I cannot help expressing my gratification and gratitude at their expressed desire to again elect me to the Presidency, which, however, circumstances make it necessary for me to decline with thanks

Respectfully submitted,

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG, *President.*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 6, 1913.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute, San Francisco:
GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 28, 1913:

March 1, 1912. Cash on deposit in various banks.....	\$ 24,226.58
Cash in contingent funds	225.00

Total cash.....	\$ 24,451.58
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RECEIPTS

Mechanics' Institute Building, rents from March 1, 1912, to March 1, 1913, (including \$12,000 for rent of portion occupied by the Library) ..	\$50,614.35	
Pavilion Block taxes, refund at time of sale....	1,441.19	
Pavilion Block, rent	100.00	
Sale of Pavilion Block.....	700,000.00	
San Bruno Avenue Lot, rent.....	60.00	
Sale of San Bruno Avenue Lot.....	9,000.00	
Interest, General	1,257.64	
Interest (Mortgage Receivable—Investment Realty and Home Company).....	62.50	
Bond Premium Account	277.20	
Bond Interest Account	7,422.80	
German Savings and Loan Society—For New Building Payments	2,532.25	
Library and General Administration:		
Dues	\$13,130.50	
Entrance Fees	618.00	
Life Memberships	350.00	
Lost Books Paid For.....	76.90	
Fines and Extra Books.....	1,410.00	
Lectures	80.75	
	\$ 15,666.15	788,434.08
		<u>\$812,885.66</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Mechanics' Institute Building—payments for construction, equipment, etc.....	\$ 12,685.82
Mechanics' Institute Building—operating expenses from March 1, 1912, to March 1, 1913:	
Pay Roll	\$ 8,399.95
Interest	13,573.75
Taxes	4,514.89
Insurance	1,283.17
Steam Heat	1,100.00
Electric Current	2,089.55
Water	200.08
Window Cleaning	288.00
Supplies	797.37
Repairs	662.86
General Expense	90.44
	<hr/>
	\$ 33,000.06
Pavilion Block—Taxes	4,952.37
Outside Lands—Taxes	42.97
German Savings and Loan Society— for Release of Mortgage.....	315,863.98
Purchase of 308 \$1,000-5% City Hall and Civic Center Bonds	308,000.00
Premium on Bonds to equalize 4½% basis	21,936.60
Accrued Interest on bonds from July 1, 1912, to October 8, 1912.....	4,149.44
Mortgage Receivable (Investment Realty and Home Company)	12,500.00
Library and General Administration:	
Advertising	\$ 56.35
Books, Binding and Periodicals.	10,138.41
Furniture	349.07
General Expense	1,266.11
Insurance	178.50
Legal Expense	782.50
Lectures	1,049.90

Forward..... 13,820.84 713,131.24

Forward.....	13,820.84	713,131.24
Printing and Stationery	374.84	
Salaries	8,958.00	
Rent of Library Rooms in Post St. Building, from March 1, 1912, to March 1, 1913.....	12,000.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 35,153.68
		\$748,284.92
Cash on hand in various banks, February 28, 1913.	\$64,375.74	
Cash on hand in contingent funds	225.00	
	<hr/>	
Total cash	\$ 64,600.74	
		<hr/>
		\$812,885.66

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books,
Binding and Periodicals has been..... \$ 66,238.49
The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of
the new building on Post Street has been.....\$326,017.55
Insurance is carried as follows:
Books \$ 17,000.00 | || Furniture | 4,000.00 | |
| Post Street Building (besides accident and plate glass insurance) | 205,000.00 | |
| The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows: Post Street lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building. Seven lots in People's Homestead Tract A (unimproved). First Mortgage for \$12,500.00 on San Francisco Real Estate. 308 \$1000.00 5% City Hall and Civic Center Bonds of the City and County of San Francisco, valued at \$329,659.40. Cash in various banks, \$64,600.74. Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library. | | |

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. WOOD,
Secretary Mechanics' Institute.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 6, 1913.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute:

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the fifty-eighth annual report of the Library, for the year ending February 28, 1913.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year the names of 7 life and 619 subscribing members were added to our membership, and the names of 421 subscribing members were withdrawn.

I have also to report the death of the following life members: R. P. Clement, Mrs. E. Colbert, Benjamin Edson, Joseph Knowland, George Penlington, D. R. Provost, W. L. Russell, W. H. Stevens, Mrs. M. S. Thompson and W. H. Wiester.

Mr. David Kerr, for many years an active member, and an honorary member since December, 1909, passed away during the year. Mr. Kerr was a Trustee of the Institute in 1870-71 and from 1878 to 1891. He served as Vice-President from 1884 to 1888 and as President from 1889 to 1891.

Membership March 1, 1912.....	3,304
New Members, Life.....	7
New Members, Subscription.....	619
	3930
Withdrawn and suspended.....	432
Membership February 28, 1913.....	3,498
The membership is divided as follows:	
Honorary	7
Life	636
Subscribing	2,855
	3,498

BOOKS.

During the year we have added 5,466 new volumes:

By Purchase	4,745
Gift	287
Binding	434
Number of volumes reported Feb. 29, 1912.....	39,266
Accessions, March 1, 1912, to Feb. 28, 1913.....	5,466
Less lost and paid for.....	52
Condemned and lost by dropped mem- berships	41
Exchanged	12
Sent to Fort Snelling Military Post.....	100
	205
Net Gain	5,261

Number of volumes March 1, 1913.....44,527

In addition to the number of gifts noted above, the Library has received during the year many gifts of unbound pamphlets and Government documents, which are not entered in the accession register. A list of all the donors, with a statement of the number of books entered, will be found at the end of this report.

ACCESSIONS BY CLASSES.

	Purchase	Cost	Gift	Bind- ing	Total
General Works	77	\$406.90	7	316	400
Philosophy	29	41.88	...	...	29
Religion	53	132.46	2	...	55
Sociology	258	547.81	118	11	387
Science	71	174.04	52	42	165
Useful Arts	442	1102.22	44	55	541
Fine Arts	276	992.22	10	5	291
Literature	371	544.61	6	3	380
German	20	23.00	...	...	20
French	66	79.50	...	...	66
Travel	222	502.38	11	2	235
Biography	356	669.27	7	...	363
History	329	626.14	10	...	339
Fiction	2175	2200.64	20	...	2195
Totals.....	4745	\$8043.07	287	434	5466

CIRCULATION.

There were issued for home use 118,998 volumes, an average of 9,916 volumes per month. The following table gives the statistics of circulation by classes:

General Works	74
Philosophy	1,301
Religion	565
Sociology	1,855
Science	916
Useful Arts	2,742
Fine Arts	1,584
Music	531
Literature	4,939
German	1,309
French	1,539
Travel	3,744
Biography	3,224
History	2,205
Fiction	88,875
Children's Books	1,351
Periodicals	2,244
	<hr/>
	118,998
Fiction	88,875 vols.—74.7 per cent
Children's Books.....	1,351 vols.—01.2 per cent
Non-Fiction	28,732 vols.—24.1 per cent

RECEIPTS.

The receipts of this department for the year have been as follows:

Entrance Fees	\$ 618.00
Life Memberships	350.00
Dues	13,130.50
Books paid for	76.65
Magazines paid for .....	.25
Fines	669.90
Extra Books	740.10
Lecture Tickets	4.75
	<hr/>
	\$15,590.15

Respectfully submitted,

F. B. GRAVES,
Librarian.

GIFTS.

Books donated to the Library.

Donors.	No. of Vols.
Aldrich, G. A.....	2
American Bankers' Association (N. Y.).....	2
American Water Works Association.....	10
Anonymous	3
Blair-Murdock Co.	1
Brewer, Geo. N.....	1
California—Building & Loan Commissioners.....	1
California—Insurance Commissioner	1
California—Secretary of State.....	10
California—State Library	4
California Bankers Association.....	1
Campbell, E. W.....	2
Colquhoun, R. D.....	1
Davis, Mrs. Philip W.....	1
Dorne, Mrs. Nelly W.....	1
Dorr, Dr. L. L.....	3
Doubleday-Page & Co.....	2
Elder, Paul	1
Faulkner, Richard	3
Fink, A. J.....	3
Flood Commission (Pittsburgh, Pa.).....	1
Foster, Miss	1
Foulke, W. D.....	2
Funk & Wagnalls Co.....	1
Gray, R. S.....	2
Harvard University	1
Healy, P. J.....	1
Hewes, Mrs. C. L.....	1
Kensinger, Miss	14
Lakeside, The, Co.....	2
Lee, Miss B. F.....	7
Leland Stanford Jr. University	1
Mabury, Miss C.....	1
Mensch, F. B.....	1
Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board.....	1
Morrow, Hon. W. W.....	1
National Rivers and Harbors Congress (Washington, D. C.).....	2
New York—State Board of Charities.....	8

Donors.	No. of Vols.
New York—State Education Department.....	8
New Zealand—Registrar-General	3
Ohio—Geological Survey	1
Pacific Gas and Electric Co.....	1
Philadelphia Commercial Museum.....	1
Philopolis Press	1
Pitman, Isaac, & Sons.....	1
Price, General Samuel W.....	1
Prudential Insurance Co. of America.....	1
Putnam, G. P., & Sons.....	1
Robinson, Rev. Harold McA.....	1
San Francisco—Board of Supervisors.....	1
San Francisco—City Attorney.....	1
San Francisco—Tax Collector.....	1
Society of California Pioneers.....	1
Spofford, Mrs. Harriet Prescott.....	1
Spring Valley Water Co.....	2
Tacoma Commercial Club.....	1
Technical Society of the Pacific Coast.....	7
Trenor, Thomas	1
U. S.—Agriculture Department	2
U. S.—Census Office	35
U. S.—Coast and Geodetic Survey.....	1
U. S.—Geological Survey	2
U. S.—Interstate Commerce Commission.....	1
U. S.—Smithsonian Institution	1
U. S.—Superintendent of Documents.....	100
U. S.—War Department	1
Vair, Roger	1
Wilkins, James H.	1
Wood, J. H.....	1
Ziel, G. A.....	3

Associations and individuals who have made donations other than bound volumes:

Donors.	
American Institute of Architects, Washington, D. C..	1 pamphlet
American Museum of Natural History, New York	
City	1 pamphlet
American Railway Bridge & Bldg. Association.....	1 pamphlet
American Telephone & Telegraph Co., New York City	1 pamphlet

Donors.	
American Unitarian Association	3 pamphlets
American Woolen Co., Boston, Mass.	1 pamphlet
Anonymous	1 pamphlet
Arnold, Bion J.....	3 pamphlets
Associated Charities of San Francisco.....	1 pamphlet
Association of Life Insurance Presidents, New York	6 pamphlets
Birdsall Mfg. Co., South Bend, Ind.....	2 pamphlets
Boston Port & Seamen's Aid Society.....	1 pamphlet
Bowdoin College	1 pamphlet
Bowers, A. B.....	1 pamphlet
Brewer, George N.....	7 pamphlets
California—Insurance Commissioner	2 pamphlets
California—State Library	39 pamphlets
California—Superintendent of Public Instruction....	1 pamphlet
California Academy of Sciences.....	11 serials
California Development Board	2 pamphlets
Campbell, E. W.....	Miscellaneous pamphlets
Canada—Department of Mines	1 pamphlet
	5 serials
Carnegie Institution of Washington.....	3 pamphlets
Cowperthwait, J. Howard.....	1 pamphlet
Cox, Robert Lynn	1 pamphlet
Crocker, W. H.....	1 pamphlet
Democratic National Committee.....	1 pamphlet
Detroit—City Plan and Improvement Com'n.....	1 pamphlet
Deutsche Bank, Berlin.....	1 pamphlet
Dunlap, Boutwell	5 pamphlets
Fairmount Park Association.....	1 pamphlet
Finkle, F. C.....	1 pamphlet
Graves, Mrs. F. B.	1 pamphlet
Grunsky, C. E.....	2 pamphlets
Hebrew Technical Institute.....	1 pamphlet
Holt, George H.....	1 pamphlet
Illuminating Engineering Society.....	1 pamphlet
Indian Rights Association.....	1 pamphlet
Lackawanna Steel Co.....	2 pamphlets
Lamb, Gilbert D.....	2 pamphlets
Leland Stanford Jr. University	3 pamphlets
	2 serials
Little, Arthur D.....	1 pamphlet
Long, Percy V.....	1 pamphlet

Donors.

Los Angeles—Department Public Works.....	1 pamphlet
Merchants Exchange, S. F.	6 pamphlets
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.....	4 pamphlets
Milwaukee—Bureau of Economy and Efficiency.....	7 serials
Minneapolis—Board of Park Commissioners.....	1 pamphlet
Mulholland, William	2 pamphlets
Municipal Art League of Chicago.....	3 pamphlets
New York School of Philanthropy.....	2 serials
Ottawa (Canada)—Publicity Bureau	1 pamphlet
Pennsylvania Museum	1 pamphlet
Pennsylvania Prison Society.....	1 pamphlet
Philadelphia City Institute	1 pamphlet
Philadelphia Commercial Museum	2 pamphlets
Post-Nikov, F. A.....	1 pamphlet
San Francisco—Auditor	1 pamphlet
San Francisco—Board of Park Commissioners.....	1 pamphlet
San Francisco—Board of Supervisors.....	2 pamphlets
	52 serials
Saulmann, Julius C.....	1 pamphlet
San Francisco Housing Association.....	1 pamphlet
Spaulding, J. G.....	2 pamphlets
Sveriges Offentliga Bibliotek.....	2 pamphlets
Trenor, Thomas	12 serials
Turner, H. W.....	1 pamphlet
U. S.—Bureau of Mines.....	2 serials
U. S.—Smithsonian Institution	8 serials
University of Chicago.....	2 pamphlets
University of Illinois Engineering Experiment Station	29 pamphlets
University of Vermont.....	1 pamphlet

LIBRARIES SENDING REPORTS OR BULLETINS.

Birmingham Free Libraries Committee.....	England.
Brooklyn Public Library.....	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Buffalo Public Library.....	Buffalo, N. Y.
Carnegie Public Library of Pittsburg.....	Pittsburg, Pa.
Carnegie Public Library	Bradford, Pa.
Chicago Public Library.....	Chicago, Ill.
Cleveland Public Library.....	Cleveland, O.
Dayton Public Library.....	Dayton, O.
Detroit Public Library.....	Detroit, Mich.
Free Library of Philadelphia.....	Philadelphia, Pa.
Grand Rapids Public Library.....	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Harvard University Library.....	Cambridge, Mass.
Haverill Public Library.....	Haverill, Mass.
Helena Public Library.....	Helena, Mont.
John Crerar Library.....	Chicago, Ill.
Library Co. of Philadelphia.....	Philadelphia, Pa.
Los Angeles Public Library.....	Los Angeles, Cal.
Lynn Public Library.....	Lynn, Mass.
Mercantile Library of New York.....	New York, N. Y.
New York Public Library.....	New York, N. Y.
Newark Free Public Library.....	Newark, N. J.
Newton Free Library.....	Newton, Mass.
Oakland Public Library.....	Oakland, Cal.
Oberlin College Library.....	Oberlin, O.
Omaha Public Library.....	Omaha, Neb.
Pasadena Public Library.....	Pasadena, Cal.
Paterson Public Library.....	Paterson, N. J.
Peabody Institute	Baltimore, Md.
Philadelphia City Institute.....	Philadelphia, Pa.
Pratt Institute Free Library.....	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Providence Athenaeum.....	Providence, R. I.
Providence Public Library.....	Providence, R. I.
Rosenberg Library	Galveston, Tex.
Royal Library	Stockholm, Sweden.
St. Louis Mercantile Library Association.....	St. Louis, Mo.
St. Louis Public Library.....	St. Louis, Mo.
Salem Public Library	Salem, Mass.
San Francisco Public Library.....	San Francisco, Cal.
Seattle Public Library.....	Seattle, Wash.
Sedalia Public Library.....	Sedalia, Mo.
Springfield City Library	Springfield, Mass.

LIBRARIES SENDING REPORTS OR BULLETINS.

Stockton Free Library.....	Stockton, Cal.
Toledo Public Library.....	Toledo, O.
Toronto Public Library.....	Toronto, Canada.
U. S. Library of Congress.....	Washington, D. C.
Victoria Public Library.....	Victoria, Australia.
Worcester Free Public Library.....	Worcester, Mass.